

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated August 15, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, Applicants amends claims 7, 8, 24 and 28, and cancels claims 9 and 25-26 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 7-8, 11, 24 and 27-32 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7, 11, 24, 27-28 and 31-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sposili et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0053450); rejected claims 24, 28 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Voutsas et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,573,163); and rejected claims 9, 26, 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sposili et al. in view of Uchida (JP 62-026884).

Claim 7 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 7 recites, for example, a combination of elements, "...a plurality of stripe-shaped light transmitting portions for passing the laser beam, each light-transmitting portion includes a triangular-shaped edge or semicircular-shaped edge." None of the cited reference teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 and claim 8, which depends therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner cites Uchida as teaching "semicircular-shaped edge" in the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Uchida relates to "[a] diffusion mask 35' [is] used in the manufacturing process of a window-strip type semiconductor laser element." See the English abstract of Uchida. However, the claimed invention relates to a laser mask for a sequential lateral crystallization method in which a laser beam is irradiated on an amorphous silicon layer through the mask. Such a SLS mask has no relevance in manufacturing a laser source itself. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Uchida is a non-analogous art in consideration of patentability under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

For similar reasons as discussed with claim 7, claim 24 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 24 recites, for example, a combination of elements, "...a plurality of

stripe-shaped light transmitting portions for passing the laser beam, each light-transmitting portion includes triangular-shaped edges or semicircular-shaped edges on both sides..." None of the cited reference teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 24 and claim 27, which depends therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 28 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 28 recites, for example, a combination of elements, "...at least one end of the plurality of stripe-shaped light transmitting portions have a shape such that an intensity of the laser beam passing through at least one end is substantially lower than an intensity of the laser beam passing through other portions due to interference and scattering of the laser beam." None of the cited reference teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 28 and claims 29-32, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: November 10, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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